

# King County Councilmember

## District Eight

June 2005



King County Courthouse

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King County

# Dow Constantine

Dear West Seattle Neighbor:

This is a time of change for King County and the Eighth County Council District. County voters have approved a reduction in the number of Council members from 13 to 9, so the Eighth District is due to expand next year to add the Seattle neighborhoods of Pioneer Square, SoDo, Georgetown and the International District, plus the entire cities of Burien and Normandy Park and portions of Tukwila, SeaTac and Beacon Hill.

In West Seattle, citizens of Admiral, Alki and Harbor Avenue are closely watching proposed changes in flight patterns at King County International Airport. North Highline area residents are discussing governance options, such as incorporation or joining an existing city through annexation. On Vashon and Maury Islands, volunteers are working to prepare for the possibility of a natural disaster or terrorist incident that could temporarily isolate the islands from mainland emergency services. Burien is taking on the challenge of regional economic and population growth by seeking designation as a regional growth center.

But we must also find time to celebrate. On April 8, representatives of 25 arts, culture, and heritage organizations from throughout District Eight gathered for Arts Day—a recognition of the arts and a networking opportunity for local arts administrators. The first of May saw a record crowd at West Seattle's Seacrest dock as the Elliott Bay Water Taxi kicked off another summer season transporting people to and from the downtown waterfront. And on June 1, hundreds of people gathered in White Center to break ground for Greenbridge, an ambitious redevelopment of the former Park Lake Homes.

This newsletter includes reports on just a few of the myriad activities in our exciting and multi-faceted district. It is an honor to represent this union of dozens of diverse neighborhoods and the citizens who make the Eighth District their home.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely

Dow Constantine  
Metropolitan King County Councilmember

# Elliott Bay Water Taxi returns for summer



The Elliott Bay Water Taxi is back for the summer after a record-setting kickoff day on May 1.

On that day, 2,165 people took advantage of free Water Taxi rides, an increase from 1,420 last year. During May, ridership more than doubled from last year on our free shuttle van service (Metro route 773), in part because the route has been expanded to serve the Admiral District.

The West Seattle High School band provided musical entertainment for the kickoff celebration.

Argosy Cruises is operating the Water Taxi service using the 149-passenger MV Sightseer. Boats sail about every 40 minutes during commute hours and hourly during midday. Evening service is offered on Friday and Saturday nights (and for every Seattle Mariners home game) with the last boats leaving Pier 55 at 10:30 and Seacrest Dock at 11 p.m.

The fare is \$3 for anyone over the age of five. Passengers with a valid Metro transfer pay just \$1. Most Metro-issued passes are accepted for full fare. The 2005 Water Taxi season runs through Sept. 30.

For more information on the Elliott Bay Water Taxi, call (206) 553-3000 (TTY 206-684-1739) or go to <http://transit.metrokc.gov>.

*The West Seattle High School Band*



## Chief Sealth Girls' basketball team honored

The Chief Sealth High School girls' basketball team was honored May 2 by the King County Council for winning the 3A state title.

The Sealth girls' state tournament run culminated in a 71-54 victory over a previously undefeated River Ridge squad. Impressively, the Sealth girls excel in the classroom as well as on the court, compiling an outstanding 3.5 team grade point average. Congratulations!

Sealth's three super sophomores—Nia Jackson, Christina Nzekwe, and Regina Rogers—attended the ceremony and took the microphone to thank the team's supporters.

## Celebrating District Eight Arts & Heritage Day

Representatives of 25 arts, culture and heritage organizations from throughout District Eight joined me on April 8 for a forum at ArtsWest in West Seattle.

District Eight Arts Day provided an opportunity for these groups to share news and ideas with me, representatives of 4Culture (the former Cultural Development Association of King County) and each other.

It was a great chance to learn more about each group's latest projects, challenges and plans for the future. As a former ArtsWest and Allied Arts board member, and a lifelong supporter of the arts, it's remarkable to me how the arts and heritage community manages to produce such vital work on such limited resources. Starting with my next district newsletter, we will profile a District Eight arts and heritage group in each issue.

The participants—representing organizations ranging from the Highline Community Symphonic Band (“Burien’s best-kept secret,” according to oboe player Gordon Somerville) to the Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association—suggested ways that King County can help small arts, culture and heritage groups serve our communities.



## KC Airport noise issues discussed at mid-May forum

Some 60 residents of Alki and nearby neighborhoods attended the May 19 meeting of the Alki Community Council to express concerns about possible noise impacts from proposed new landing approaches at King County International Airport.

The focus of neighborhood concerns was a possible new flight path from the north, shifting the current angle of approach roughly 7.5 degrees to the southwest. This alternate flight path could potentially increase aircraft noise in the high-density residential communities along Harbor and Alki Avenues, as well as in the Admiral District.

On a positive note, the county and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are now encouraging pilots to use their on-board Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment to stay centered on a flight path over northern Elliott Bay. This path avoids Magnolia, but still keeps planes well clear of West Seattle.

Comments on the proposed landing pattern changes can be addressed to KCIA Director Bob Burke at (206) 296-7380; aircraft noise complaints may be made by calling (206) 205-5242.



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***West Seattle community  
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**If we can be of assistance to you, please contact us**

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